

Clean Energy and Resource Conservation

"Our hemisphere has bountiful natural resources that could make renewable energy plentiful and sustainable, while creating jobs for our people."

**— President Barack Obama, April 2009, Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago**



Embassy San Jose's strategy promotes clean energy and conservation through initiatives to:

- 1. Be a visible leader for clean energy and energy efficiency**
- 2. Encourage pioneers in clean energy**
- 3. Connect Costa Rican officials with U.S. experts**
- 4. Advance clean energy products and services under President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI)**

• Low carbon development will require INNOVATION and COLLABORATION

- Under the Energy & Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), the Department of State's Regional Environmental Hub awarded **"Smart grid" pilot project grants** of \$80,000 each to INBio and EARTH University
- Also under ECPA funding, a **Central America Regional Electrical Integration (SIEPAC)** initiative led by the Institute of the Americas (IOA) will contribute to the identification of next steps and capacity building
- The **Regional Energy Efficiency Center** is a partnership with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Hub, the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Costa Rica's Electricity Institute (ICE), The Ministry of Environment (MINAET), the Petroleum Refinery (RECOPE), the U.S. based Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the University of Costa Rica

• Progress depends on active DISCUSSION and ACTION –

- In 2010, Embassy San Jose facilitated a discussion with the advocacy group, **"The Clean Economy Network"** (<http://www.cleaneconomynetwork.org/>) to explore clean technology opportunities in Costa Rica
- At **EARTH University**, the U.S. Embassy promotes a "Science Corner" where academics can brainstorm ways to combine Costa Rica's highly productive agriculture sector with clean energy solutions

***Increased trade and
innovation in clean
technologies =
Shared Prosperity for
the U.S. and Costa
Rica***

• Costa Rica and the United States are partners in CONSERVATION –

- **The Tropical Forest Conservation Act ("Debt-for-Nature Swap")** funds conservation efforts, and Costa Rica is the single largest beneficiary with over \$50 million under the program